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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 22 | Humidity 71% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 74,005 | Nifty 22,502 | Gold 73,815 | Silver 92,982 | Dollar 83.29 | Euro 90.49 | GBP 105.81

WEB OF CRIME

No respite as Bengaluru records 4,683 cases of cyber crime already this year

PAGE 5

BLAME GAME

As villa in Yelahanka sees sewage deluge, it is not clear whose fault caused this mess

PAGE 6

Supplier of medicines to govt hospitals, warehouses misprints department name; masked label to undo error creates further confusion among patients, doctors

THE LABEL DEBACLE

State Medical Supplies Corporation has penalised company, withdrawn all medicines

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A wrong label pasted on seven medicines by the manufacturing company has created confusion among the doctors at government hospitals and health & family welfare officials across the state. It took a while but the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (KSMSCL) has finally penalised the manufacturing company and withdrawn those medicines from warehouses and hospitals.

It all happened when the KSMSCL procured Methylprednisolone injection, Carboxymethylcellulose eye drops, Oxymetazoline Paediatric (nasal) drops, Flubiprofen eye drops, sodium chloride (nasal) drops, timolol maleate drops, and oxymetazoline hydrochloride from one Pushkar Pharma based in Himachal Pradesh. The medicines are worth Rs 62.89 lakh.

> **"It is to be noted that no changes were done in the label of the product information provided. The printing error in the logogram design was masked where instead of Health Department it was typed as AHVS department**
>
> — Chidananda Vatare, Managing Director, KSMSCL

The manufacturing company has mentioned the department name as Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences instead of Health and Family Welfare Department. This blunder of misprinting the name caused confusion among the doctors

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Deadline on your plate

Only 36 lakh of 2 crore vehicles in state have got HSRP till date

| Sridhar.Vivan
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Will the deadline for High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) be extended again, or will those who have not complied face penalties? This is the million-dollar question as the final deadline for HSRP adoption is May 31. With the third deadline approaching, only 18% of vehicles have been fitted with HSRP. Out of the over 2 crore vehicles in the state, only 36 lakh vehicles have complied.

An official said that it remains to be seen whether the HSRP deadline will be extended, especially considering the Model Code of Conduct for the Lok Sabha elections, which will be in effect until June 6. When contacted, Additional Commissioner (Enforcement) of the Transport Department, Mallikarjun C, said, "We will act based on the orders issued by the government. We have extended the deadline twice before. The first extension was until August 2023, and then an additional three months were given, but only a few complied. Another extension was granted from November to February, but the demand remained low. We will once again write to the state government seeking its suggestions."

The slow adoption of HSRP is partly due to the discomfort many people feel

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Game design workshop

Dive into the fascinating world of game design with this comprehensive workshop. Ideal for beginners and those with a budding interest in game development, the workshop will cover essential aspects of game creation, including storyboarding, character design, and basic programming. Participants will gain hands-on experience and insights from industry professionals, equipping them with the skills to start their own game design projects.
Where: Parsec, Jayanagar
When: May 21

02 Art in patterns

Unleash your creativity at the Fluid Art Workshop, an immersive and hands-on event perfect for both beginners and experienced artists. Explore the mesmerising world of fluid art and learn various pouring techniques to create stunning abstract masterpieces. All materials will be provided, and no prior art experience is necessary.
Where: Small World, Koramangala
When: May 21

03 Theatre workshop

Dive into a transformative journey with the Un-adulting Creativity Theatre Workshop. Over eight days, participants will engage in dynamic theatre exercises designed to unleash creativity, enhance performance skills, and foster personal growth. Ideal for anyone looking to explore their artistic potential in a supportive environment.
Where: Yours Truly Theatre, CMH Road
When: May 21

Thousands of B'luru's trees face the axe

Massive tree felling expected as Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project construction gathers pace, environmental impact under scrutiny

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Tree felling in parts of Bengaluru (file photo)

During the construction of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) spanning 148.17 km across four corridors, 15,045 trees fall within the alignment, with the majority having a girth of 31-60 cm. For the completion of phase 1 of BSRP, 32,572 trees need to be axed, with the most significant impact occurring due to the construction of the Akkupete Depot in Devanahalli, lying outside Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits. The Akkupete depot requires the removal of 17,505 trees, while the Soladevanahalli depot necessitates the axing of 22 trees. Additionally, 15,607 trees will be affected for the construction of the corridors, predominantly falling within the girth range of 31-60 cm. Corridor 1 is expected to witness the highest number of trees being axed (7,198 trees), followed by Corridor 2 (3,469 trees), Corridor 4 (2,306 trees), and Corridor 3 (2,072 trees).

According to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) filed by K-RIDE, trees within various girth categories are affected: 427 trees are less than 30 cm, 6,710 trees are within 31-60 cm, 4,594 trees are within 61-90 cm, 2,812 trees are within 91-180 cm, and 502 trees exceed 180 cm in girth. The highest number of trees is found within the girth range of 31-60 cm, followed by 4,594 trees (61-90 cm) and 2,812 trees (91-180 cm). The lowest number of trees is within the girth range exceeding 180 cm (502 trees).

Among the trees expected to be axed, 73 species have been identified, with four vulnerable categories according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Categorisation

Among the trees expected to be axed, 73 species have been identified, with four vulnerable categories according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Categorisation. These trees include the Silver tree, Ashoka tree, Blue Jacaranda, and Rusty Acacia. Silver trees and Rusty Acacia are particularly affected by corridor construction.

The tree axing is projected to lead to a decrease of 21.8 kg per tree annually in CO2 absorption, totalling 710,069 kg/year. It would also result in a reduction of 49 kg per tree annually in oxygen, amounting to 1,596,028 kg/year. However, the operation of mass transport like BSRP is expected to reduce CO2 emissions by 150,598.58 tonnes/year by 2025. With nearly 2,116,764.97 tonnes/year of CO2 emissions without BSRP, there can be an overall decrease of 1,966,166.38 tonnes/year of CO2 emissions, a significant 92.89 per cent decrease by 2025.

Environment Minister orders audit of 5 crore saplings

Crucial afforestation evaluation set in motion; Minister demands accountability and urgency

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Eshwar Khandre, the forest and environment minister, has instructed the forest department to conduct an audit of the five crore saplings that were planted last year as part of an afforestation exercise, to determine their survival rate. He has also set a three-month deadline for this audit.

The minister, who held a meeting with the officials, has also demanded to know the number of saplings the department plans to plant this year. Furthermore, he has asked the department to furnish details regarding how tall the saplings at government nurseries have grown, within a span of one week. As part of the Van Mahotsav (afforestation) exercise, the forest department has decided to plant over 25 crore saplings within a span of five years.

Khandre has also warned officials of strict action if found to be indulging in negligent behaviour, such as allowing the felling of trees in forest areas. He has called on the officials to scrutinise satellite images consistently and take action against those who encroach on forest land. Additionally, he has urged the issuance of online and computerised bills for all financial transactions, including the safaris carried out by the department. Along with this, he has directed the department to come up with software and a website that will allow online booking of trekking paths available across the state, within a span of one month.

Speaking on the matter of returning items made from organs of wild animals, including plaques and trophies, to the government, the minister noted that the deadline expired on April 9. However, many citizens have requested an extension of two or three months after confusion regarding the matter erupted due to an injunction from the High Court. He has stated that the officials will seek advice from the legal department and decide on the matter after the court gives out a verdict.

Attack of the fake police informant

Forced to accompany man claiming to be checking for drugs, techie stalls extortion bid

Man manages to call police from an ATM

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A man alleged that he was cornered by a dupe, claiming to be a police informant, in the wee hours on Sunday in Koramangala. The fraudster claimed he was checking for drug peddlers in the area and tried to extort the victim.

The complainant, a techie, said the man stopped him around 4.30 am when he was visiting his girlfriend in Koramangala.

"He might have seen me when I came to the house at 1 am. He waited for me to come back out. When he saw me, he came close and said that he has often seen me in the area," the victim told BM. The man then told the victim that he was patrolling at night to check for drug peddlers.

"I told him to check me and my bag. But he kept saying that I should come to the police station with him. I was scared and didn't want to go. Then he told me to call my girlfriend downstairs so that she could be my alibi. I didn't want her to get involved in this. So, I told him he could check my flat in Domlur and he won't find any drugs," he added.

The victim then sat on the man's two-wheeler. The man stopped the scooter at a petrol pump and asked the victim to pay for his petrol. "He kept signaling people at random junctions while we were on our way so I was scared and I paid for the petrol," stated the victim.

When they reached Domlur, the victim sensed that he was being scammed and didn't take the man to his apartment. He kept roaming in the area and didn't go to his house. "I understood that he wanted money and I was terrified that he might be carrying a weapon. To avoid any physical assault, I decided to ask him how much money he wanted," said the victim.

The accused then called up a person, and the person on the other side of the call asked for Rs 5,000. The victim said he didn't have that much cash and would need to withdraw the money from an ATM. "I went to several ATMs in the area and used the wrong pin to avoid taking the money out. Meanwhile, he was waiting outside the ATM on his two-wheeler and I took that time to contact the 112 emergency service. I was fast enough to tell the police the exact location of the ATM," he said.

However, the accused sensed that the victim might have called someone and started verbally abusing him. He then asked him to pay him online, and the victim paid him Rs 400 and said he didn't have any more money.

"But while I was paying, I kept looking at one side of the road and he could sense that somebody was coming. At the same time, I received a call from the police who were on the other side of the road.

When the man saw the police, he started running away. I picked up the call and told the police that it's the man who was coming towards them," said the victim.

The police chased the fraudster for some distance; but could not catch him. They came back to the victim, recorded his statement, and filed a complaint.

"The police took just seven minutes to reach the location after my call. They took the number of the accused from my payment transaction history and asked me for other details," he added.

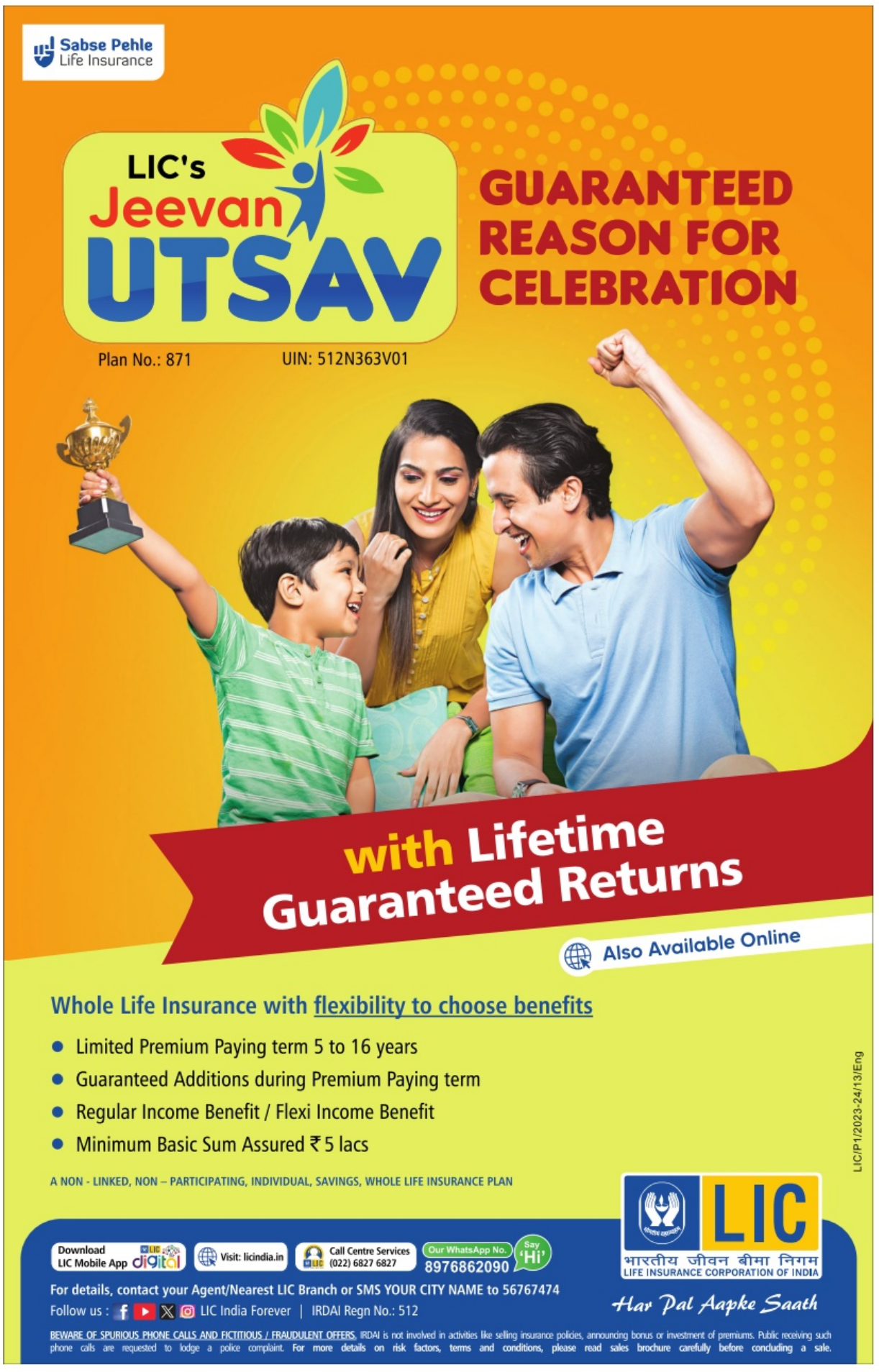
Raid rumour: Hema, Srikanth 'not at rave party'

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) conducted a raid on a suspected rave party at a farmhouse in Bengaluru. Numerous high-profile individuals from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka were detained after drugs were allegedly discovered and seized at the location. Following the raid, rumours began circulating that actors Srikanth and Hema were also present at the location. However, both actors have denied these claims.

A video circulating on X showed police rounding up several people from the party. One of the individuals, who attempted to hide his face with his t-shirt, bore a strong resemblance to Srikanth, prompting fans to speculate about his presence at the party. Additionally, reports surfaced linking Hema to the incident, alleging she was also in attendance.

Hema responded by stating that she received numerous calls from reporters and well-wishers about her alleged arrest. She released a video to the press asserting that she was at a farmhouse in Hyderabad, not in Bengaluru. In the video, she mentioned that she was relaxing and enjoying her time in Hyderabad and urged people not to believe the rumours. Srikanth also released a video from his home, acknowledging the resemblance between him and the man in the video, but clarifying that he was in Hyderabad at the time. He pointed out that, unlike the man in the video, he does not currently have a beard. He emphasised that he does not attend rave parties, preferring to attend birthday celebrations instead.

The police said the rave party titled 'Sunset to Sunrise Victory' was attended by around 100 people. **BMB**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No space for man's best friend at housing society?

Animal caretakers in Haralur allege society management maimed, relocated dogs

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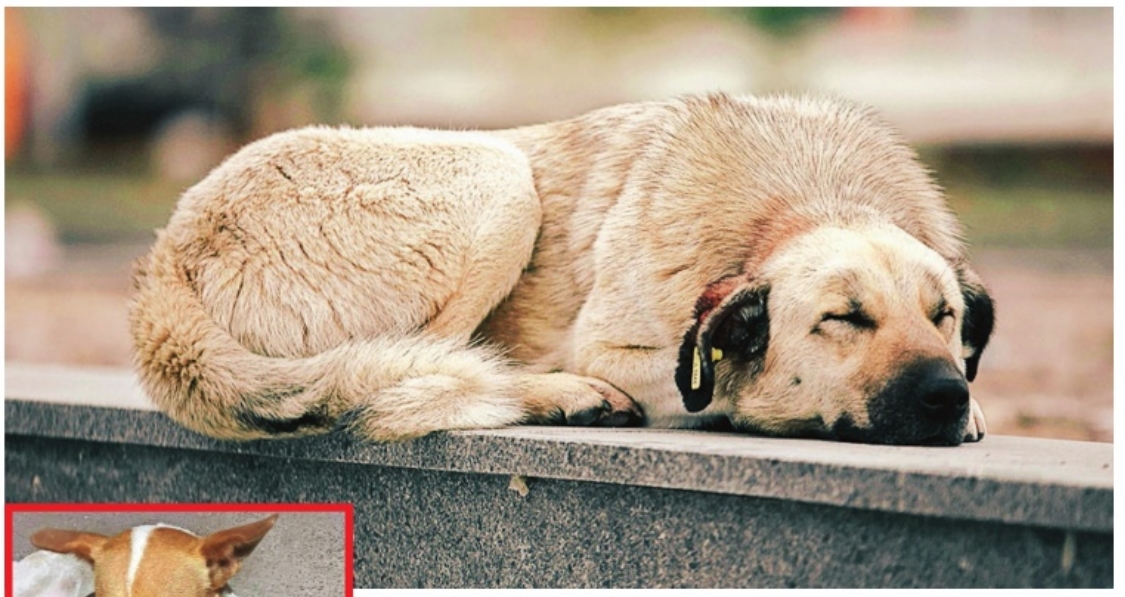

According to BBMP, stray dogs cannot be relocated from their space; inset: one of the dogs injured in an attack

Occupants of a residential community in Haralur have filed a complaint with the police against the management of the society under Harlur Police Station limits for allegedly maiming and relocating community dogs.

The caregivers living in the society alleged that the dogs were met with cruelty and relocated under the pretext of keeping the residents of the community safe.

"A group of animal caretakers in the apartment complex have been feeding and caring for community dogs within our society over the past three years. However, we have faced continuous harassment from some society members who oppose our efforts. The situation has become increasingly grave and security guards have maimed some of the animals. We had eight community animals, but all of them have been driven out of the area," said a resident of SJR Blue Waters apartment complex in Harlur.

Animal caretakers say the security officers hit the animals with sticks to drive them out of the space that some of them have been residing in since birth. Despite informing them about the legal protections for feeding and caring for community dogs, as affirmed by the Supreme Court under the Animal Birth Control rule of 2023, the harassment has persisted.

"Despite our efforts to address this issue amicably and in accordance with the law, the situation has escalated to a critical level. We have also vaccinated and neutered these dogs. Most of the feeding is conducted outside the premises. However, we have faced continuous harassment. The dogs have been forcibly relocated. The society members have explicitly and frequently stated their intent to drive the dogs away. Recently, one of the dogs was severely injured. This blatant disregard for the law and the well-being of the animals and the feeders must be addressed immediately," said another resident of SJR Blue Waters.

> **The situation has become grave as guards have maimed some of the animals. We had 8 community animals, but all of them have been driven out of the area**
> –Resident of apartment complex

The feeders of the society have now decided to approach the Animal Husbandry Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for help. They say these steps are being taken by them as the actions of the society members are not only illegal but also inhumane.

In addition, "We would like to urge the authorities to intervene and help resolve this issue by the law. This harassment of animal feeders and animals should be stopped and authorities should ensure the safety and well-being of the community dogs and the feeders. This situation demands immediate action to uphold the legal protections and ethical treatment of animals," says the resident.

In response to the charges, a representative of SJR Blue Waters management said they are not aware of any police complaint filed, "As per our knowledge and information so far nothing has been found or reported. This is just a miscommunication and false news," concluded the representative.

Call to preserve Baobab tree in Cubbon Park

Citizen's initiative petitions High Court to free one of the last trees of its species from enclosure

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The members of Heritage Beku, a citizens' initiative, have written to the High Court about a sacred Baobab tree on the Cubbon Park premises that has been enclosed with a fence. The members have asked that the tree be safeguarded and be accessible to the public.

A letter was written by the members to the registrar, Karnataka High Court, Cubbon Park, the Horticulture Department, and the BBMP Forest Department. The letter stated, "Cubbon Park is a place for people, representing a cosmopolitan diversity of people and trees. We all know of the biodiversity of Cubbon Park; it has many special trees; it is interesting to note that on the High Court Premises, there is a sacred Baobab tree of African Origin, also locally called the Gorakshak tree. Unfortunately, this has been enclosed for security reasons with a fence and is occupied by an establishment that sells stationary for the public in the court."

The members added that showcasing the tree's rarity and unique cultural significance will be important. "This will require your office to intervene and negotiate with the horticulture department and other relevant authorities to restore the tree's structure and ensure its continued existence."

The Baobab tree is enclosed by a fence at Cubbon Park

A member from Heritage Beku told Bangalore Mirror about the tree. "My heart goes out when I see the Baobab tree enclosed in this manner and not visible to the public. Besides a rich historical past and medicinal values, the number of baobab trees has decreased; we lost one in Lalbagh recently. This may be one of the last trees left. Now the government should take some steps to conserve it," they said.

Another member of the group added that if the government is serious about conserving them, it should bring in some special provisions to ensure that no one cuts these trees and gives them the dignity they deserve.

According to studies and reports, Baobab trees can grow up to 30 metres tall and can bear citrus-like fruits. The leaves, seeds, and fruit of the Baobab tree can be ground into a fine powder, which is also said to be used in various dishes due to its wide range of health benefits. It provides antioxidants that help reduce inflammation and regulate blood sugar levels.

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Fall season
Sarakki Gate

The footpath from Sarakki Gate to J P Nagar Metro is in such a poor state that pedestrians risk serious injuries from accidental falls.

Dangerous poise
Gavipuram

A dry tree on Gavipuram Extension 1st Main, near Shekar Hospital Road has posed a threat for months, as it could fall any time and could cause potential harm to people or property.

Trash pile
Shampur

For 20 days, garbage has piled up on 4th Cross, Shampur, emitting a foul smell and attracting mosquitoes. Despite this, BBMP has taken no action, resulting in children falling ill from mosquito-borne diseases.

Warning: Don't click on that link

Tech-savvy fraudsters target unsuspecting citizens with malicious apps and Remote Access Tools

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According to the latest data from the Karnataka State Police, Bengaluru recorded 4,683 cyber crime cases by March 2024. The state is witnessing approximately 2,000 cyber crime cases each month. Karnataka recorded 5,847 cyber crime cases in 2024 under the Information Technology Act 2000, 2008.

In a recent incident, 46-year-old Hemanth was using Facebook when he received a message about a new credit card offer. Intrigued, he clicked on the link, leading to the download of random apps on his phone, resembling gaming apps. Upon opening one of these apps, he discovered Rs 50,000 had been withdrawn from his bank account.

Fraudsters are using Remote Access Tools (RAT) to create malicious links and APK files, which they send to mobile numbers linked to bank accounts via WhatsApp or text message. Once the file is opened, it installs automatically, forwarding all incoming text messages to the fraudsters' devices. This enables them to obtain OTPs and access internet banking services, quickly transferring money from victims' accounts.

A cyber security engineer explained, "The default setting on our phones prevents downloading apps from unknown sources. However, users sometimes enable this setting to download specific apps. If you receive an SMS or WhatsApp message and click on a link, malicious apps can be downloaded onto your phone. These apps often need permission to access your messages and contacts to retrieve OTPs. There are two possibilities in this type of fraud: it targets individuals who are not tech-savvy and may unknowingly click 'allow' when prompted, or these APK files are sophisticated enough that the virus doesn't need explicit permission to access your data."

The Bengaluru police have been proactive on social media, reminding residents to stay vigilant against digital scams. "We urge everyone not to fall for traps set by scammers on WhatsApp. Watch our informative video to stay aware and protect your finances. If you encounter any suspicious activity, report it immediately to 1930," advised the police.

Private buses turn junction into parking lot

The notorious Silk Board junction in Bengaluru is facing a new problem: private buses parked on the road are causing severe traffic congestion. Motorists are calling for traffic police intervention to address the issue. Despite other vehicle segments having to pay for parking in the city, private buses seem to be an exception, leading to frustration among commuters.

Rajkumar Dugar, a mobility expert, highlighted the problem, "We can see the same issue in Kalasipalayam, Race Course Road, and Gandhinagar. While there aren't any dedicated spaces for these buses, bus operators should halt the buses outside Bengaluru and ferry passengers inside in smaller buses. A large bus covers nearly the space for three cars. It takes about 35-40 feet to park a 20-30 seater bus. There needs to be a restriction on the maximum parking time allowed. The spaces occupied by the buses cannot be used by anyone else." —Melvin Mathew

BM Education

Now an e-course to study about Public-Private Partnerships

As Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) gain momentum globally, there is a growing need for systematic study of these collaborations. Addressing this demand, an innovative e-course on PPP has been introduced, offering comprehensive knowledge and a robust foundation for those interested in this field. This beginner's e-course, a collaborative effort by the Infrastructure Finance Secretariat (IFS) under the Ministry of Finance's Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and the World Bank, aims to educate and empower participants with essential skills and insights into PPP.

UGC Secretary Manish Joshi highlighted the active role of the Infrastructure Finance Secretariat in promoting private investment in infrastructure projects, particularly through PPP models. This newly launched e-course is a significant initiative in this regard, designed to cater to a broad audience, including students, faculty members, and professionals keen on understanding and implementing PPPs. "The course provides an in-depth exploration of PPP, from fundamental concepts to advanced models, enriched with practical insights drawn from real-world case studies," said Joshi.

The PPP e-course is structured into five comprehensive modules

The PPP e-course is structured into five comprehensive modules, each covering critical aspects of the PPP project lifecycle. These modules are meticulously crafted to offer a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical applications, ensuring participants gain a thorough understanding of PPP processes. Topics range from the basics of PPP to more sophisticated models and frameworks used in the field, with each module incorporating case studies to illustrate successful PPP implementations.

Joshi emphasised that higher education institutions across the country have been urged to disseminate information about this e-course widely and encourage their students, faculty, and staff to enrol. This initiative aims to build a knowledgeable community that can effectively participate in and contribute to infrastructure development projects.

The IFS envisions a significant boost to infrastructure development through increased private sector participation facilitated by this e-course. By equipping stakeholders with targeted interventions and strategic insights, the course aims to prepare them for the seamless delivery and implementation of infrastructure projects. One of the core objectives is to cultivate a holistic understanding and build the capacity of individuals involved in the developmental ecosystem.

"To achieve this level of preparedness, immersive training on PPP is essential. The course promotes this by providing an interactive and engaging learning environment. Participants will have the opportunity to delve into various PPP models, understand their applications, and analyse the factors that contribute to their success or failure," Joshi stated.

By offering a blend of online lectures, interactive sessions, and practical assignments, the course ensures a comprehensive learning experience, he further added.

—BMB

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Blame game over sewage deluge in Yelahanka

BBMP arranges temporary fix, claims pvt contractor botched up sewer line

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As residents of areas near Yelahanka grapple with the flooding caused by heavy rainfall, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has attributed the urban floods to the absence of proper storm water drains and sewage lines.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath had this to say about the flooding. "The residents hired a private contractor to lay a sewer line, which has not been connected to the main BWSSB sewer line. BBMP was constructing a storm water drain, but the work at Puttenahalli Lake has been halted for the past year due to a lack of permission, as the lake falls under the jurisdiction of the forest department. Previously, water was diverted upstream to an open field. However, for the past year and a half, buildings have opposed the sewer line, resulting in the sewer line being diverted into the storm water drain. This is the root cause of the problem."

He said that as a temporary measure, they have installed pumps to remove the water, temporarily redirecting it to Puttenahalli Lake. "Additionally, for a distance of 520 metres, we are attempting to divert the water via pipeline to the storm water drain on the lake's periphery. We cannot discharge water directly into Puttenahalli Lake. Therefore, for the past 10 days, we have been temporarily redirecting piped water to the bund (near the walking path) and then connecting it to the storm water drain."

However, residents claim the issue worsened due to the construction of the rajakaluve. Nath responded to that claim saying, according to the map, the rajakaluve has been blocked and diverted by a few apartment complexes.

Pumps installed to remove water from NorthWood Villa, Yelahanka

> **For 520 metres, we are trying to divert the water via pipeline to the storm water drain on the lake's periphery. We cannot let water directly into Puttenahalli Lake**
> –Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP chief

Damage done

Following the rain on Saturday, about 22 villas in Ramanashree Garden Layout, Yelahanka, were flooded, causing problems for the residents. After a joint inspection by the BBMP and Forest Department officials on Monday, it was decided to lay a 520-mt-long, 1,600 mm diameter pipe to divert the rainwater.

Residents of NorthWood Villa in Yelahanka faced severe flooding after heavy rains, alleging that an overflowing storm water drain (SWD) caused knee-deep water, affecting vehicles and stray animals. They also claimed that even without rain, the SWD, not fully diverted, continues to flood the premises. The water reached home stairs, contaminating fresh water sources and blocking sewage treatment plants (STP). One resident mentioned they have only a few mugs of usable water left and have raised the issue with authorities including the BBMP, BWSSB, and the forest department, but received inadequate responses.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who inspected the rain-affected areas on Monday, attributed the flooding to poor planning in private layouts. "These layouts have mixed sewage and storm water drains, requiring us to create separate discharge systems. I've instructed officials to identify all flood-prone areas and implement urgent measures. While BDA layouts are well-planned, private layouts often rely on temporary measures before selling, leaving residents to suffer the consequences. We will issue notices to such defaulters," he stated.

Dangerous chambers of Vajrahalli

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Residents staying near Vajrahalli have highlighted an issue with the unsafe and unscientifically built chambers on 100ft Vajarahalli Road. According to the residents, these chambers made by the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) pose a serious safety risk to them. They said that though they have made several requests to the authorities, no action has been taken to fix the issue.

The residents told BM that the chambers have been put in unscientifically. Some of them occupy a major chunk of the road forcing vehicles to have to maneuver to avoid those chambers. In some places they are 1 feet in height, which is dangerous. In some cases sharp edges or gaps are like death traps for vehicles, especially for 2-wheelers. If they are not attended to at the earliest, accidents are imminent, they warned.

Chambers occupy chunk of the road, and are too high at some places

Kiran Kumar, a resident of Sobha Forest View apartment, said, "We have informed officials several times. In fact they pass on these chambers every day to get to their office which is just off this 100 feet road. Authorities lack public safety knowledge and common sense. They have closed those chambers just for the sake of it and not in a scientific manner. Two of them have been put up recently. These occupy almost 70% of the road. There are other two that have been there for several years."

The residents disclosed that an auto had toppled over one of the chambers a year back which left a senior citizen with a broken leg. "Most of the vehicles, especially 2-wheelers avoid these chambers as it is very risky for them. However, this should be solved so that each and everyone can commute safely without any risks. The road connects Kanakapura Road to Kengeri. Due to footpath encroachments and haphazard parking of vehicles, the road has become congested. This has been an issue for long now and needs to be addressed soon," added Kumar.

Phalguni pollution: NGT seeks response

Garima Prasher
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The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has sought a response from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) regarding the high pollution level in Phalguni River and the recent water crisis faced by major cities in Karnataka, including Bengaluru.

In the two separate matters that were highlighted by media reports, the tribunal has sent notices to agencies such as KSPCB, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Deputy Commissioner/District Magistrate, Bengaluru, National Coastal Zone Management Authority, etc.

Taking cognizance of release of untreated industrial effluents into the water bodies including Phalguni River, the green court mentioned that the situation indicates a violation of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

"There is a substantial issue relating to compliance with the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment. Industrial units operating in Baikampady industrial area have been polluting the Thokur stream and the Phalguni River by discharging polluted untreated industrial wastewater. Thus, we implead KSPCB, CPCB, and the Deputy Commissioner/District Magistrate," noted the order copy by the tribunal.

In the matter of severe water scarcity in the state's major cities like Bengaluru, Mangaluru, and Shivamogga, the green court noted that the situation of these cities, relying entirely on monsoon rains to replenish water reserves, has become precarious due to dwindling and erratic rainfall patterns.

"Shivamogga, even though benefitted from a natural drainage system, is also facing looming water scarcity. The district is experiencing groundwater depletion due to over-exploitation for irrigating water-intensive crops like areca nut and paddy. Shivamogga's rapid urbanisation, industrial growth, and real estate expansion exacerbate water consumption. Coupled with the inauguration of the airport and the district's emergence as a healthcare and education tourism hub, the development has come at a cost, with Tunga River witnessing reduced water output during failed monsoons in 2023," noted the principal bench of the tribunal.

NGT also underlined that encroachments on vital water bodies along national highways have compounded the issue, obstructing underground water channels and exacerbating topsoil erosion. Moreover, violation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) has led to destruction of wetlands crucial for sustaining river ecosystems and urban water supply, aggravating water scarcity. "It indicates a violation of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Coastal Regulation Zone and Environment Protection Act, 1986," NGT said.

Jumbo estimation exercise to begin

K'taka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu to start doing elephant census across 65 forest ranges

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A team of two to three people would survey each of the selected blocks and walk a minimum of 15 km to cover a 5 sq km block and record all elephant sightings

Karnataka, in association with the forest departments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, is taking up a three-day elephant population estimation exercise. Scheduled on May 23, 24, and 25, the exercise will be conducted across 65 forest ranges and 563 beats by engaging 1,689 staff.

The announcement was made by Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Monday. The Minister said the elephant population estimate would provide valuable insights into population dynamics and potential conflict scenarios. It would also help in sketching out conflict management strategies.

Between January and May so far this year, 22 human deaths owing to human-elephant conflict cases have been recorded in Karnataka.

In the wake of high human-elephant conflict cases and elephants' movement across the landscape of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, an Interstate Coordination Committee (ICC) was set up by Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. An ICC Charter was signed by the Forest Ministers of Karnataka, Kerala, and senior forest officials of Tamil Nadu in Bandipur National Park on March 10, 2024. The Charter mandated a synchronized population estimation exercise of the wildlife in the interstate region.

The estimation work will be conducted in ten forest divisions of Karnataka, located on the interstate boundary with Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh. The divisions in which the exercise will be conducted include Kolar, Cauvery Wildlife, MM Hills Wildlife, BRT Tiger Reserve, Bannerghatta National Park, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, Madikeri Territorial, Madikeri Wildlife and Virajpet.

Block sampling or direct count exercise will be carried out on May 23. The data of the beats, which have elephant presence, were collected for the exercise conducted in 2023. Of these beats, 50% are chosen randomly, followed by selection of sample blocks from each forest division of size 5 sq km. This is done taking into account the diverse vegetation, altitudinal and rainfall patterns.

A team of two to three people would survey each of the selected blocks and walk a minimum of 15 km to cover a 5 sq km block and record all elephant sightings. The area of each sample block will be marked on a map. The staff will also record the age and sex of all animals spotted.

A line transects exercise will be held on May 24. The on-ground staff will walk the 2-kilometer transect line and record data about elephant dung piles on either side of the line. The perpendicular distance of the dung pile from the line and the freshness of the dung pile will also be recorded. Outcomes from these two exercises will be used for the abundance estimation of elephants in these habitats.

Further, a waterhole direct count exercise with photographic evidence will be held on May 25 at waterholes, salt licks, and open areas that are frequented by the jumbos. A fixed-point observation will be undertaken from 6 am to 6 pm at these selected locations to record information such as the size of the herd and the age and gender of the individuals with photographs. This data is used to assess the age and sex distribution (demography) of the elephant populations. The data will be analyzed by researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Biker dies in hit-and-run

A hit-and-run accident claimed the life of a young motorcyclist on Nice Road near Magadi Road within the jurisdiction of the Gnanabharati Traffic Police Station on Sunday morning. The incident occurred between 7:50 and 8 am when a lorry, driving at high speed, collided with a motorcycle traveling from Kengeri.

The rider, identified as Vinayak S, 20, succumbed to severe head injuries at the scene. The pillion rider, Girish S, 20, sustained minor lacerations. The lorry driver fled the scene without stopping to provide assistance. Police have registered a case under sections 279 (rash driving), 337 (causing hurt by an act endangering life or personal safety of others) and others. —BMB

City tourists rescued

Fire and rescue services personnel freed eight tourists from Bengaluru who were stranded when their vehicle got stuck in stagnant rainwater near the Tamil Nadu Tourism Boat House in Ooty on Monday, said an official. Noticing the partially-submerged vehicle close to the boat house near the bus stand here, a few locals informed the fire department. Immediately, personnel from the department rushed to the place and set free all eight persons trapped in the vehicle, Ooty Fire Station officer Premkumar said. The eight tourists were later lodged at a safe place. —PTI

Cabinet reshuffle not on cards post LS polls: CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said a cabinet reshuffle is not on the cards. He also predicted that the Congress will get between 15 and 20 seats out of 28 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

The chief minister also dismissed the BJP's allegations that the five guarantees implemented by the state government would be discontinued after the elections.

"We are not thinking of any cabinet reshuffle after the Lok Sabha elections," Siddaramaiah said during the 'Meet the Press' event organised by the Press Club of Bangalore. The Congress will go by the directions of the high command, he said.

Siddaramaiah predicted that the Congress would win a minimum 15 seats and maximum 20 seats out of 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka, and ridiculed former chief minister and BJP leader B S Yediyurappa's claim that the saffron party would win all 28 Lok Sabha seats.

Accusing the BJP of spreading lies that the five guarantees of the Congress government would be stopped after the election, the chief minister said the schemes will not be discontinued for any reason.

"For no reason we will discontinue any guarantee schemes. People have blessed us for five years. So long as their blessings are with us, these guarantees will not stop," he said. The chief minister also clarified that there is no dearth of funds for development funds in the state.

"The BJP is lying that the state's treasury is empty due to the guarantees. Let them lie but it should be close to the truth. What they are talking about is the height of lies," Siddaramaiah said.

He said that BJP state chief B Y Vijayendra and the Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka do not understand economics, due to which they are lying that the treasury is empty.

Siddaramaiah also lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for allegedly spreading lies about reservation for Muslims. "Modi is telling another lie that we will take away the reservation from the backward communities and give it to the Muslims. This is an outright lie," he said.

Citing Chinnappareddy Commission report, Siddaramaiah said Muslim reservation has been in place in the state for 30 years. "We have not taken away anyone's reservation. So what Modi is saying is an absolute lie," he said. —PTI

Social media post against police boomerangs on activist

A post by a social media activist which claimed that a police vehicle did not have valid insurance has boomeranged, with the police slapping a fine on him for Rs 500 for allegedly not producing his own vehicle's emission certificate.

A citizen had posted "a false, malicious and misleading" post on social media, stating that a certain police vehicle bearing the registration number KA-19-G-1023 on duty near Kuntikana in Mangaluru city did not have valid insurance as the police department is using vehicles for which it has not paid insurance premiums.

Clarifying the facts, Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Anupam Aggarwal said all vehicles of the Police Department are compulsorily insured by the Karnataka Government Insurance Department (KGID) and the said insurance is renewed from time to time.

"It is hereby clarified that any departmental vehicles whose insurance is not renewed shall not be used for duty. Departmental Highway Patrol Vehicle Registration No KA-19-G-1023 as shown on social media has insurance period up to date 13-10-2025 and vehicle pollution inspection period is valid up to 08-01-2025."

Conversely, when the police asked to see the emission certificate of the two-wheeler owned by the 'social media activist', he could not produce it. Subsequently, the police slapped a fine of Rs 500 on him for this lapse. **PTI**

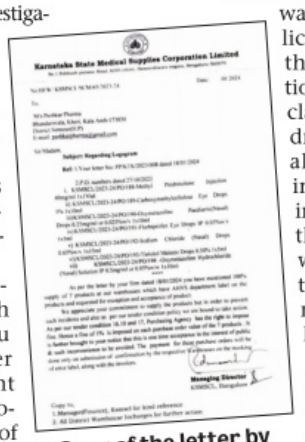
'Nothing wrong with medicines, just the label was wrong'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and doubt among the public about the ability of KSMSCL to take all precautions and do due diligence before zeroing in on a suitable manufacturing company to supply medicines for government hospitals in the state.

Veeresh BH, a RTI activist, has filed a complaint with Karnataka State Human Rights Commission stating that medicines meant for animal consumption were supplied to the KSMSCL for human consumption by masking the label.

"I demand a thorough investigation and stopping of payment to the manufacturing company for supplying medicines meant for animal consumption to the KSMSCL for human consumption by masking the label. The higher authorities must hold the KSMSCL responsible for procuring such medicines," said Veeresh.


Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited

Subject: Regarding Logogram

Copy of the letter by KSMSCL Managing Director to Pushkar Pharma

According to the documents available with Bangalore Mirror, Kodagu District Warehouse officer wrote a letter to government doctors in the district to provide data on the availability of medicines with labels masked at their hospitals.

Meanwhile, Chidananda Vatare, Managing Director, KSMSCL, said that he wrote a letter to Pushkar Pharma to withdraw the medicines with masked labels.

"It is to be noted that no changes were done in the label of the product information provided. The printing error in the logogram design was masked where instead of Health Department it was typed as AHVS department. There was almost no stock of the product at the warehouses and institutions during January 2024. The product was supplied to all the warehouses in the state by the supplier by January 5, 2024 and request was made to the KSMSCL on January 18, 2024 to accept the already supplied product to the warehouses with the error in the logogram design masked at their own cost," said Vatare.

The Managing Director said the product was accepted in the interest of public health as there was no stock at that time. "The terms and conditions of the Tender (IND 1076) and clause were applied to accept the drug as one time acceptance and also warned not to cause such inconvenience. The supplier was imposed a penalty of 1 percent on the purchase order value and all warehouses were instructed to distribute the product only after masking the error," the Managing Director said.

He said that the supplier has confirmed that they have not supplied these products to the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences Department of Government of Karnataka. "Hence it may be noted that the drug is of standard quality and meant for human use only. The KSMSCL is recalling the product from warehouses and institutions and also has instructed Pushkar Pharma Ltd to replace the product with fresh stocks at the earliest," he said.

Deadline extension yet again?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with the online registration process. To address this, several shops now offer online HSRP application services on behalf of vehicle owners, albeit for a commission. This initiative aims to simplify the process for individuals who are not familiar with online procedures.

The Transport Department has mandated that vehicles registered before April 1, 2019, must have HSRPs. Owners can order HSRPs through the unified web portal www.siam.in, where they can select dealer locations for affixation and schedule convenient installation dates and times. The process is entirely cashless, with fees payable online. Additionally, the option for affixation at the owner's residence or workplace has been approved by the State Transport Department.

Guidelines from the Transport Department state that certain transactions at Regional Transport Offices (RTOs), such as change of ownership, address modification, duplicate RC issuance, insurance updates, fitness approvals, etc., cannot proceed without HSRP affixation in the state. The department warns against counterfeit HSRP plates lacking unique laser codes and security features like high visibility in low light.

HSRP serves as a security measure with embossed unique numbers, holograms, and other elements to enhance vehicle identification and security. It became mandatory for all new vehicle registrations from April 1, 2019, to deter theft and misuse.

HSRPs are affixed using non-reusable snap-on locks and include features like a blue-colored chromium-based hologram of Ashoka Chakra and a unique laser-branded 10-digit permanent identification number (PIN).

The Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR) Technical Standing Committee recommended HSRP amendments in May 1999, leading to their implementation for enhanced vehicle registration security. Over 13,45,10,172 HSRPs have been affixed on vehicles through OEMs, dealers, and State Government-approved manufacturers with type approval. The primary aim is to bolster enforcement and safety without revenue generation for the Government, with affixation regulated under CMVR 1989.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARTIBEN KISHORBHAI AGHERA, W/o BRIJESH HEMRAJBHAI BHALODIYA R/o 3rd Floor 4th Room A block Rukmani Venkataswami Reddy Arcade, Cherry Lane, Bengaluru 560103 have changed my name to ARTI BRIJESH BHALODIYA vide affidavit dated: 20/05/2024 Before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore

I, RAMYA BODA, W/o Maruthi Medapalli R/o No 29/30, 4th cross Phase 2 Nisarga Layout Abbigere Chikkabanavara Bengaluru 560090 I have changed my name to RAMYA MARUTHI vide affidavit dated: 11/05/2024 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore

I, Penumalla Prasada Rao S/O, Penumalla Ramakrishna R/o Lagumma Nilaya Plot No 9 Near Miami Super Market Whitefield Bengaluru 560066 have changed my name to Penumalla Prasad Rao for all purposes.

I,RESHMA P K, W/o Harish Mukkattel R/o 25-21-1341/14, Amar nivas, Jeppu Bappal, 1st cross, Wet Well No.7, Kankanady, Mangaluru 575002 today my present camp at Bengaluru, have changed my name to Reshma Harish Affidavit Dt.20/05/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, USHARANI KURAPATI W/o Venkata Narayana Nootheti R/o No 002,1st Main, Coffee Board Layout, Hebbal Kempapura, Bangalore-560024, Karnataka have changed my name to USHA RANI NOOTHETI for all purposes.

I, RAGHABA KUMAR JOSHI, S/o MOHAN LAL JOSHI R/o No 39 1st Main 3rd Cross AMCO Layout Koti Hoshhalli Bangalore-560092. I have changed my name to RAGHAB JOSHI vide affidavit dated: 20/05/2024 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore

I, Purushotham Ramakrishna R/o No. 85, 5th Main 12th Cross Srinidhi Layout Konanakunte B'luru-560062, have changed my Minor Son's name from Dhiren Purushothama Reddy to Dhiren Purushotham Reddy for all Purposes.

I Tanish S/O, Manish Kumar R/o 107 Foyer Apartment, 21st Cross, Sir M V Nagar, Tc Palya Main Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka 560016 have changed my name to Tanish Raj.

I, Meena Kumari Deepchand W/o Anand Kumar Jain R/o V83, 3rd cross, Pipeline, Ganesh Medical, Malleshwaram, B'luru 560003 have changed my name to Meena Kumari Affidavit Dt.20/05/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I,SANTHOSHA HEGDE, S/o Boja Hegde R/o 1-21, Pijatha Bailu,Kadtala Post Karkala Taluk, Kadthala, Dist Udupi 574108. I have changed my name to SANTHOSH HEGDE vide affidavit dated: 20/05/2024 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore

I, YASEEN KHAN ZAKIR HUSSAIN, S/o YASEEN KHAN R/o No 414 Ayesha Masjid Road Mangammana Palya Bengaluru 560068. I have changed my name to ZAKIR HUSSAIN vide affidavit dated: 20/05/2024 Before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore.

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I Parthvi Gyan Gyaneshwaran D/O, Gyaneshwaran R/o 998, 3rd A Cross, Hrbr 1st Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore - 560043 have changed my name to Parthvi Gyan.

I Jaya Kandhi A W/o Madhan M R/o #03, 1st Cross, 80 Feet road, Ragavendra Layout, Gubbalala, Bangalore 560061 have changed my name to A Jayakanthi

I Shanmugam S/o Veerabhadran Aiyle R/o #37 1st Flr, 13th Main , J C Nagara, Kurubarahalli , Mahalakshmi Puram, B'lore-560086 have ch - anged my name to Shanmugam Veerabhadran for all purposes

I Bhawna Soni D/O, Ghanshyam Das Soni R/o 8233 Tower 8 Prestige Song Of The South Akshayanagar Bengaluru Karnataka India Pin 560068 have changed my name to Trisha Soni.

I Nandita Datta W/O, Pratim Datta R/o Flat E212, Raheja Residency, 7th Cross Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru 560034, have changed my name to Nandita Ghosh.

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HEALTH TIP: Since dates are dried, their calorie content is higher than most fresh fruit

As eggplant is high in dietary fibre and low in calories, it supports weight loss

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All you need to know about...

Breaking up nicely

Don't Prolong It
There's never a 'perfect' time for a breakup. But stretching it out? That's just plain cruel. If you know things aren't clicking, it's crucial to rip off the band-aid and let them know ASAP. And trust us, the longer you wait, the harder that tough talk will become.

Be Clear On Why
The worst scenario? Breaking up and then second-guessing yourself.
It's crucial to understand why you're considering ending things, and please, let it not be because of their sock choices or the fact that they eat sushi with their hands!

Ditch The Clichés
There's nothing worse than hearing those tired old lines like "It's not you, it's me" or "I wish the timing was better." The real key? Just be calm, straightforward and more importantly, non-accusatory.

Allow Them To Respond
It's only fair that they get to chime in after lending an ear to your thoughts. Offer them the chance to respond, and sprinkle in those 'I' statements, leading with positives like, "I appreciate your honesty" and "I'm going to mull over all your insights." Till you don't do a play-by-play of all the things the other person has probably done wrong, you're good.

Don't Leave Things Open-Ended
You might think it softens the blow to drop hints about a possible reunion in the future, but it's always better to cut the cord completely than leave them hanging on to a dream that will never come true.

—Femina

Is hard water bad for you?

2 water quality engineers explain potential benefits and pitfalls

When you turn on your faucet to get a glass of water or wash your face, you're probably not thinking about what's in your water – besides water. Depending on where you live and whether you have a water-softening system, your water might contain dissolved minerals such as calcium and magnesium. And these minerals can play a role in whether certain pollutants such as lead stay out of your water.

The more dissolved minerals, the "harder" your water. But is hard water actually good or bad for you?

As engineering researchers who study water quality, we have seen the effects – both good and bad – that soft and hard water can have on everything from plumbing systems to the human body.

What is hard water?

Hard water is water that contains dissolved minerals such as calcium, magnesium, iron and manganese. Soft water contains lower concentrations of these minerals.

Hardness is measured in terms of calcium carbonate, $CaCO_3$, which is used as a reference point for comparing different minerals.

The amount of these minerals in a city's water supply varies by region. It depends on both where the water is coming from and how the water is treated.

Communities that source their water from wells rather than surface water such as lakes, streams, rivers and reservoirs often start with hard water pretreatment. As groundwater moves through the soil to a well, it picks up minerals. At the same time, areas where the types of rock and sediment are more prone to dissolving in water may have harder water.

Effects on water lines and distribution

Water that's too hard or too soft could damage pipes and lead to health and aesthetic concerns.

Since hard water has a higher mineral concentration, minerals can build up in pipes, which leads to clogged pipes in homes and public water systems. Hardness also creates more deposits at higher temperatures, so hot water heaters are prone to mineral buildup. In areas with hard water, water heaters have a shorter life span.

But hard water can help, too. While minerals from hard water can clog pipes, a thin layer of mineral deposition in water lines can protect you from ingesting toxins that could seep in from the pipe itself. Water without any minerals can play a role in pipe corrosion, because without a thin, protective layer of minerals, the water may start to eat away at the pipes, releasing metals from the pipes into the water. Drinking this water might mean ingesting metals such as lead, copper and iron.

While water that is too soft or too hard can have different effects on water lines, there is more chemistry than just hardness that plays a role in pipe corrosion and clogging. So, there's no specific hardness level that is a cause for concern. Water treatment plants take the appropriate measures to adjust for different hardness levels.

Effects on skin and hair

Whether you use hard or soft water to wash up can also have noticeable effects on your skin and hair.

Hard water is more likely to leave your skin dry. The minerals in hard water strip moisture from skin and create deposits that clog pores. Hard water can also strip the hair of moisture, leaving it dry and coarse. Dry hair is more prone to frizz, tangles and breakage. Mineral deposits can also build up on the hair and scalp, clogging your hair follicles and leading to dandruff and slowed hair growth.

Many households have their own water-softening systems. A water-softening system may help hair and skin dryness and buildup. But many of these systems trap and replace calcium and magnesium with sodium, a mineral that does not contribute to water hardness, to lower overall hardness. Increasing the water's sodium content may be a concern for anyone on a low-sodium diet.

Overall health benefits

Other than aesthetic and water heater concerns, drinking hard water is actually good for you and doesn't come with any serious adverse side effects.

For example, the extra magnesium and calcium you consume in hard water may provide a gentle solution to digestive issues and constipation.

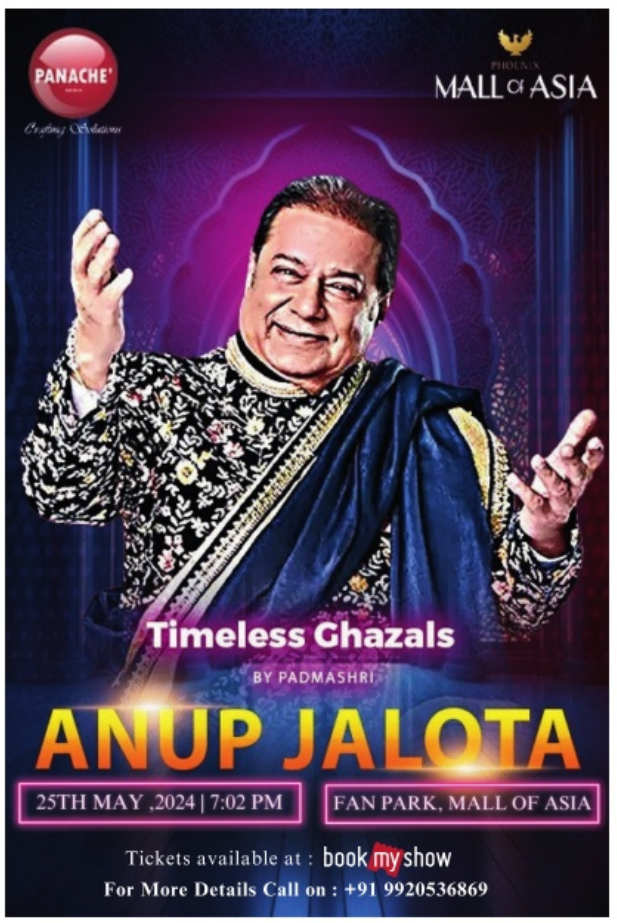
Also, researchers have found positive correlations between the hardness of drinking water and bone health. Since calcium is an essential mineral in bones, individuals in areas with drinking water that has more calcium may have higher bone mineral density and may be less prone to osteoporosis.

Researchers have also found that drinking hard water has been associated with a decrease in cardiovascular disease-related mortality. Magnesium helps regulate your cardiac muscles, while calcium keeps the sodium-potassium balance in your cardiac muscles in check, which they need to function.

Whether you have hard or soft water, don't worry too much. Water treatment plants take appropriate measures to ensure safe water for the communities they support.

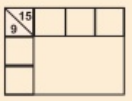
To learn more about the water hardness in your area, you can contact your local water treatment plant about its specific water treatment process. Private well owners can contact their state government to find out the testing recommendations for their area.

(Sarah Blank and Timothy Ellis, Iowa State University, The Conversation)

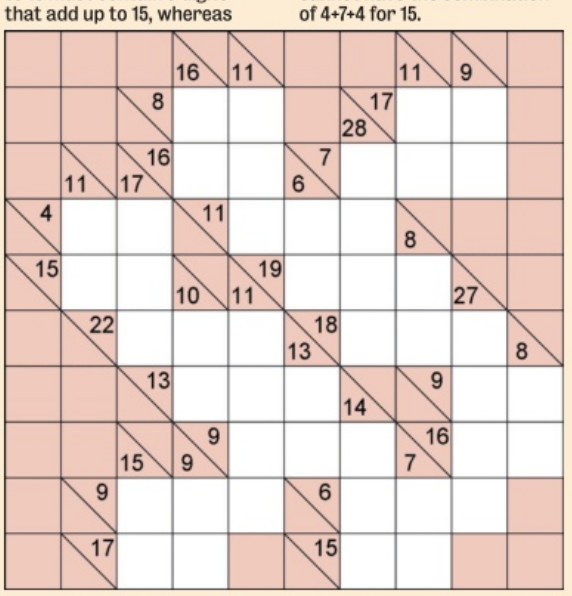


Kakuro

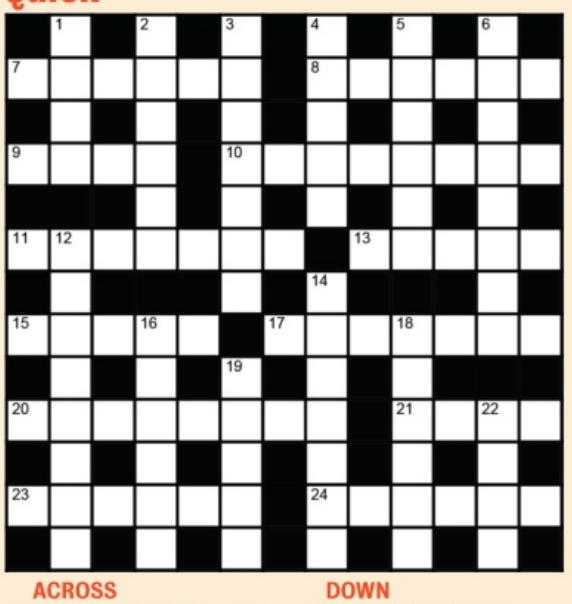
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Musical composition – "not as an" alteration? (6)
8 Elegant batsman from Hyderabad VVS ____ (6)
9 Uterus (4)
10 At a __ __ : in an uncertain situation (5,3)
11 Totalled (5,2)
13 Hog havens (5)
15 ___ Studio: North Indian restaurant off Race Course Road (5)
17 Like a rogue or a rascal (7)
20 1250 hrs.? (3,2,3)
21 Ornamental fabric (4)
23 Entreat earnestly (6)
24 Fears (6)

DOWN

1 Company emblem (4)
2 Fine building stone (6)
3 Patsy (4,3)
4 Arm joint (5)
5 Breadth, scope or boundary (6)
6 Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, et al.? (8)
12 Impasses (4-4)
14 Has in mind (7)
16 Excalibur wielder (6)
18 Flow controlling devices (6)
19 ___ in : persuaded to take part? (5)
22 Rogues (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS G

DQXUPDS BQ DRRFB CRAQC-ZPDS GB QXURC JRQJWR'B UGOPXB.

Linemaro

Excuse me, can you empty your pockets? I believe you've stolen my heart

Mindchow

Disappointments are god's way of saying 'I've got something better'

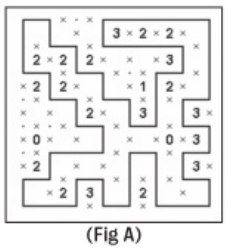
Joke of the day

I married way too young: She was Chinese

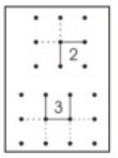
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

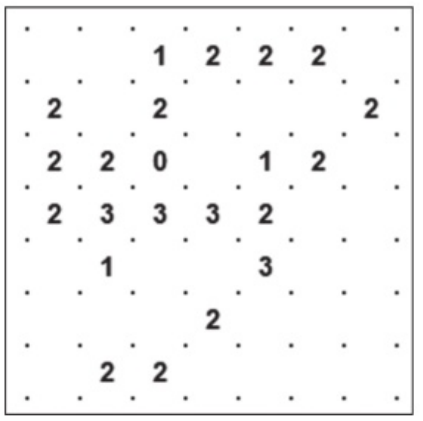


(Fig B) Not Allowed

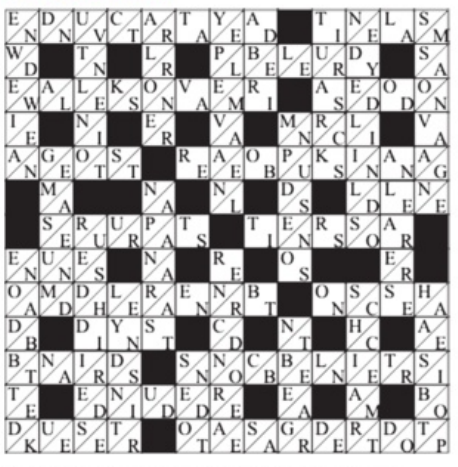
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



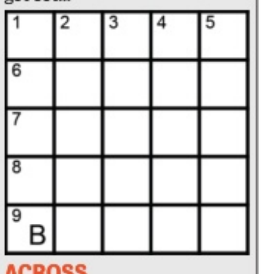
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 To ACC; 6 Prate; 7 Irate; 8 I rob I; 9 Banco

DOWN

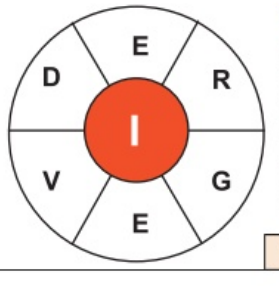
1 Cobra; 2 Or ape; 3 Tacit; 4 ie Cob; 5 Riant

Mensapuzzle

What letter is three to the right of the letter immediately to the left of the letter three to the left of the letter two to the right of the letter F ?

A B C D E F G H

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	2	7	6	8				
							7	9
9		8				6		
	1				4	5		
8	5		9		6		1	2
		2	1				8	
		5				3		8
1	9							
				6	2	7	9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7
2 3 5 7

Medium = 6
2 4 6 6

Hard = 5
1 2 3 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

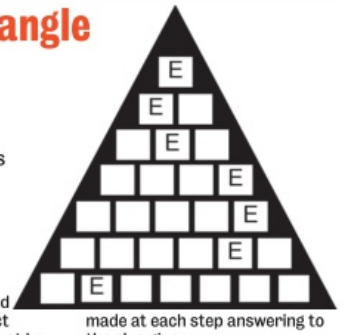
Differences: 1. Cast is smaller. 2. Fingers are not showing. 3. Cord is shorter. 4. Pen is missing. 5. Drawer is missing. 6. Briefcase is smaller.

Riddler

Can you figure out which well known oxymorons these words are?
1) Latest ritual,
2) Average huge,
3) Juvenile grown-up,
4) Factual deceptions,
5) Unwell fitness

Alpha triangle

1 Second vowel
2 Spanish article
3 Allow
4 Roofing piece
5 Supple
6 Like some swords
7 Joy

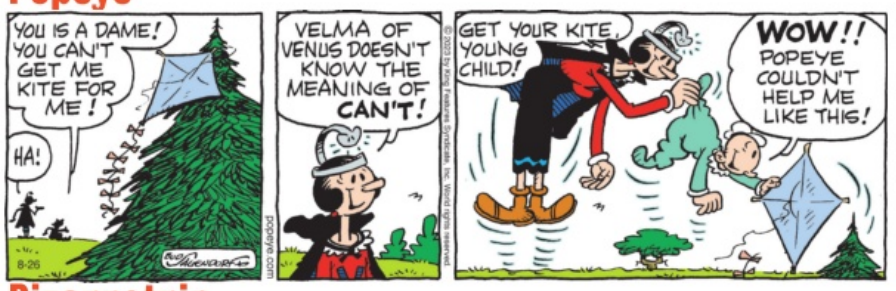


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

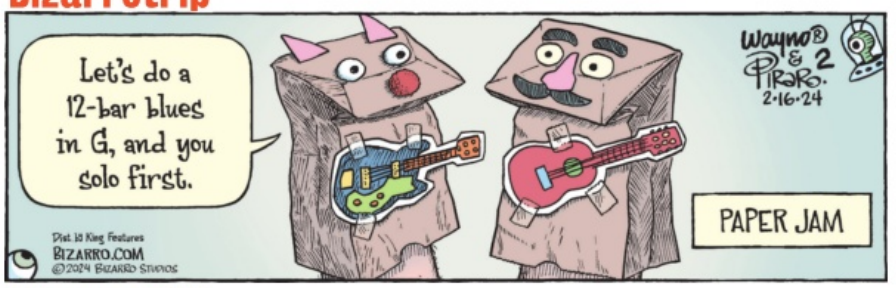
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


YOU IS A DAME! YOU CAN'T GET ME KITE FOR ME!
HA!
VELMA OF VENUS DOESN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF CAN'T!
GET YOUR KITE, YOUNG CHILD!
WOW!! POPEYE COULDN'T HELP ME LIKE THIS!

Bizarrotrip


Let's do a 12-bar blues in G, and you solo first.
Wayno & Piraro 2·16·24
PAPER JAM
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS

Diamond Lil

I HAD A BEAN BURRITO AND A POT OF BLACK COFFEE FOR BREAKFAST
MAYBE I SHOULD SIT SOMEWHERE ELSE
LIKE WHERE?
OUTSIDE OF THE BLAST ZONE
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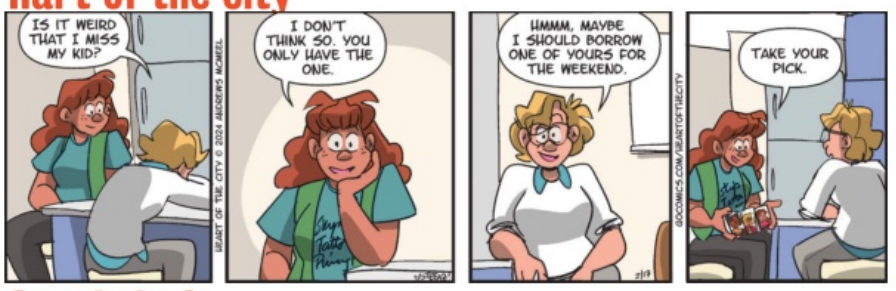
Hart of the city


IS IT WEIRD THAT I MISS MY KID?
I DON'T THINK SO. YOU ONLY HAVE THE ONE.
UMMM. MAYBE I SHOULD BORROW ONE OF YOURS FOR THE WEEKEND.
TAKE YOUR PICK.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 AUGUSTUS MCKEEL
@DOCMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

SO DID GRAMPS GET INTO TROUBLE FOR RUINING THAT ICE SCULPTURE?
YOU MEAN OTHER THAN BEING BANNED FOR LIFE FROM THE CENTERVILLE ICE CARVING FESTIVAL?
tombatiuk.com/books
2-16
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today messy situations are under control. You may feel peace of mind. You may be able to strike a proper balance in expenditure and earnings, which may increase your savings. You are advised to avoid too much travelling or overworking as it may affect your health. Students can start planning for their higher studies.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may face health issues, which may make you impatient. You are advised to control your short temper. You may spend your hard-earned money buying worthless items, which may affect your savings. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics, otherwise they may get into a fight.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may meet some influential person, who may help you in the progress of your work. Your network will be strong with the help of that person. You may get ready to implement new ideas at work or business. You will plan to invest more capital into your business that may give you financial gains in the near future.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your parents' health may be good. You may enjoy your time at work and you may also get rewards for your hard work. Your social respect among peers and seniors may be increased now. Overworking your mind may make you tired. Due to your workload, you may not be able to reach some family events.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may be satisfied with work. Your hard work will be appreciated by your bosses. You may plan for a short work related trip. You may also visit some religious places to maintain your inner peace. Your gurus may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel dull, so it is advised that you keep your mind cool. It is a golden rule for you to think twice before any action. You may have to travel to recover your money, otherwise you may lose the money. You are also advised to avoid going on any adventure tour. Students are advised to go for in depth study to get success.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some artefacts or creative items, which will improve your social status. You may also invest in properties and other assets. You are likely to enjoy a few romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase the emotional bond with the spouse.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel happy. Chronic health issues related to family members are likely to be cured. Money that was stuck may be recovered now, which may increase liquidity in the business. People who have jobs may get some incentives which will improve their financial health. Job seekers may get jobs with the help of a relative or friend's.

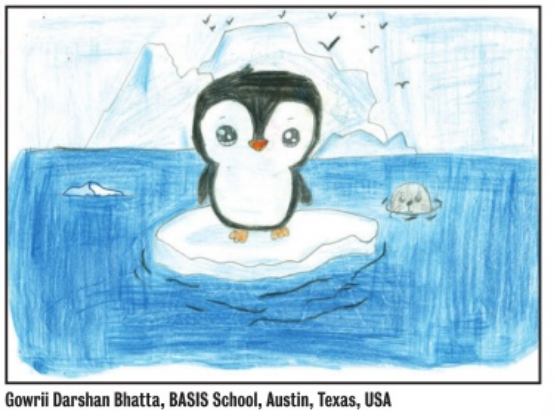
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today is important for your domestic life. You may be busy with kids. You may hear some good news in terms of kids' education. You may buy some creative items for your home or office to maintain your social status. You are advised to use wisdom while buying any household items or jewellery.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may be impatient, which may reflect in your way of working. You may make some silly mistakes, which may stop you from completing your task. Investments in fixed assets are better postponed for some days. But with the help of an elder's blessings, you may overcome some messy situations.

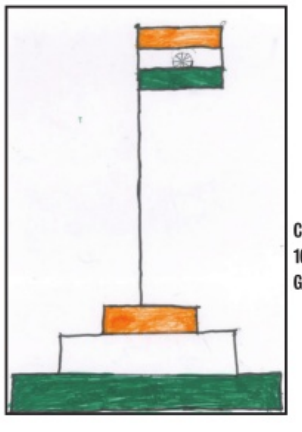
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you are blessed by the moon and your destiny is likely to be with you. You may be more energetic and focused on your work. Your hard work may pay off in terms of success. Your subordinates may help you. You are likely to go for a short work related trip. Some good news may come from your sibling.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worth less items, which may increase your savings. You may be more creative today, and you may use your creativity at your office or at home, which may enhance your social status. Love birds are likely to get some support from their family members and friends for marriage.

KIDZONE



Gowrii Darshan Bhatta, BASIS School, Austin, Texas, USA



Channabasava, 10 years, GMP School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(56/8)^1+(21/3)^1 = (7) + (7) = 14

STRIKE OUT

D	U	S	T		T	E	A	R	D	R	O	P		

FAST FIVE

C	O	A	C	T
A	P	T	E	R
R	E	T	I	A
O	R	I	B	I
B	A	C	O	N

BULL'S EYE
derive, dire, dirge, dive, diver, DIVERGE, drive, edgier, elder, gird, give, given, grid, grieve, ride, ridge, vied

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
G

RIDDLER
1) New tradition, 2) Medium large, 3) Young adult, 4) True lies, 5) Ill health

QUOTE UNCODE
Nothing so needs reforming as other people's habits.

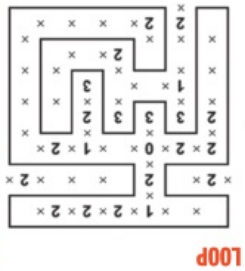
SUDOKU

5	2	7	6	8	9	1	4	3
6	3	1	2	4	5	8	7	9
9	4	8	3	1	7	6	2	5
7	1	9	8	2	4	5	3	6
4	6	2	1	5	3	9	8	7
8	5	3	9	7	6	4	1	2
2	7	5	4	9	1	3	6	8
1	9	6	7	3	8	2	5	4
3	8	4	5	6	2	7	9	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, El, Let, Tile, Lithe, Hitted, Delight.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 - 5 + 7 + 2 = 7
Medium
2 + 4 - 6 + 6 = 6
Hard
3 x 2 + 1 - 2 = 5

LOOP



KAKURO

Volume No 17, Issue No 101 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Anna's favourite weapon— Actress Anya Taylor-Joy, who is awaiting the release of her film Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga', told IANs hat her favourite prop from the film's set is the knuckle-gun, that is a knuckle duster, a gun, and knife fused together

RIGHT CHOICE

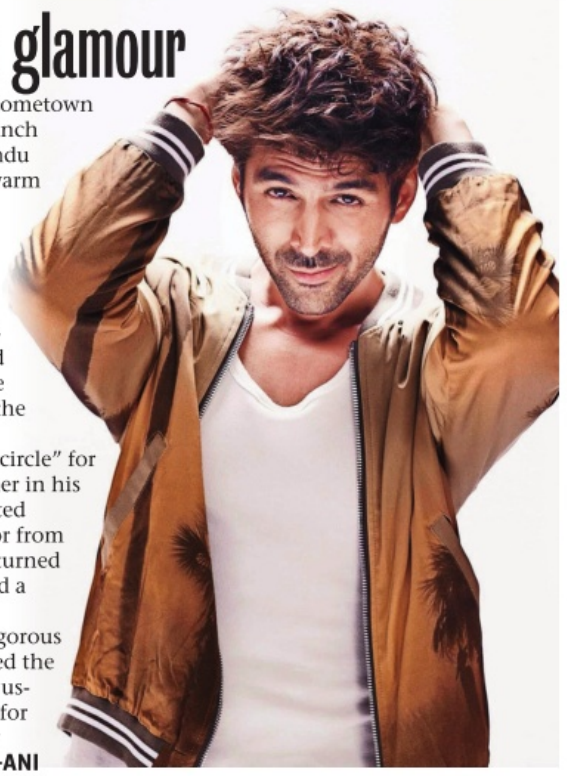
Kiara says she would love to work with husband Sidharth if right project comes along

Bollywood actress Kiara Advani recently made her debut at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, attending the Women in Cinema Gala.

On the sidelines of the prestigious event, she opened up in an interview with Film Companion about her professional and personal life, particularly her relationship with actor husband Sidharth Malhotra.

Fans of the couple, who first worked together in the 2021 film 'Shershaah', have been eagerly awaiting their reunion on the silver screen. In the interview, Kiara addressed the speculation about their potential future collaborations. She expressed gratitude for the affection they received as a couple through 'Shershaah'. "I feel like Shershaah gave us a lot of love as a couple. There's a certain excitement, andpeople want to see us together," she said. However, Kiara emphasized that any decision to work together again would be based on the appeal of the project itself. She said that they have never thought of it, like, 'As a couple, how does this work?' "We think we're individuals and actors first, so that's how we would go about looking for something," Kiara said. The actress said they both love to work together, but the project should be an exciting one. **—ETimes**

From Gwalior to glamour



Kartik Aaryan landed in his hometown of Gwalior for the trailer launch of his upcoming film, 'Chandu Champion'. He received a warm welcome upon returning to his hometown.

The city embraced him with open arms, pouring their affection and pride for the star who rose from there. Kartik's deep connection with Gwalior was revealed as he recalled his journey from the humble beginnings of the city to the glamour of Bollywood.

Aaryan said "life has come full circle" for him as he launched the film's trailer in his hometown. He added that he started dreaming about becoming an actor from here only, and now that he has returned for the trailer launch, it was indeed a moment of nostalgia for him.

Speaking candidly about the rigorous process behind his, Aaryan revealed the lengths he went to in order to do justice to the role. "I didn't eat sugar for a year, and for a time I was having just one meal a day," he said. **—ANI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Let the youthful times roll

KRG and TVF have announced that they would bankroll the movie 'Powder' last August. The teaser of Powder has been released recently. The teaser promises that the film would be a hilarious caper featuring a bunch of down-on-their-luck small town youngsters with big ambitions attempting to get rich quick and stumbling every step of the way while being sought after by various enemies.

Will they outwit their enemies? Will their dreams come true? Will anyone truly understand the power behind Powder? All these questions will be answered on July 12 when the film premieres in a theatre near you - across the country and the world.

Speaking about the film, Karthik Gowda of KRG and Arunabh Kumar of TVF said that their endeavour is to tell rich, diverse stories that celebrate young adults in every way.

"Powder is our first collaboration and hopefully a testament to that. We have been fans of some amazing youth oriented comedies. and through our feature we believe we have created a laugh out loud entertainer for Kannada audiences and young adults everywhere. We hope you enjoy the film and we remain committed to bringing you even more fresh and interesting stories in the future," they said.

Fourth attempt

Director Praveen CP is excited about the release of his maiden movie Evidence that is scheduled for release on May 24. The movie was supposed to be released last year.

"I have been associated with Sandalwood for more than three decades. I worked as an assistant for Super Star Upendra-starrer Kannada movie Shhh. My association with Uepndra sir continued till the movie Upendra that was released in 1999. Later I handled the megaphone for a Kannada movie but the producer failed to recognise my talent. I worked for two more Kannada movies. Now, I am excited over the completion of talkie, song sequences and post-production work of Evidence which is scheduled for release next Friday," said Praveen.

He said Evidence is a triangular love story with suspense elements. "I wrote the script for this movie in association with cinematographer Ravi Suvarna during the lockdown. The movie has all elements to entertain all types of audiences. It throws some light on how some people misuse their power and friendship," the director said.

The movie's shooting was held in Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Chikmagalur, and Nelamangala. It features Josh fame Robo Ganesh, Kiragurina Gayyaligalu fame Manasa Joshi, Akarsh Aditya, Rachita, Poojita, Chamak Chandra, Pavan Suresh, Shashidhar Kote, Manmohan Rai, and Aradhya Shivakumar.

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CANCER HEALER THERAPY with Immunotherapy
CANCER HEALER CENTER
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M.D. Cancer Healer Centre
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Call: 9556437474
On 25th May'24 at Bengaluru
Karnataka:1/1 A,2nd Floor, Chinmaya Mission Hospital Road, KFC Signal, HAL Ist Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru.
My Daughter got new life
Mother of Cancer Survivor
My 2.5 year old daughter Ditya was diagnosed with cancer. We were worried about what to do? Doctors advised chemotherapy and radiation, but we got scared after knowing the side effects of the treatments. Then we came to know about Cancer Healer Centre, they gave us hope, we started the treatment. During the treatment, we saw that Ditya was getting back to normal, we got regular checkups done and saw improvement in the reports. Regular medicines were usually given in juice and milk. His reports show that he is now free from cancer. we all now
Thanks! Cancer Healer Centre
Cancer Healer Treatment is the First Choice of Cancer Patient
Cancer Healer treatment is becoming the first choice of cancer patients because it works on immunity by increasing the body's resistance to disease. Due to which it acts as a shield on the normal cells of the body and the immune system becomes so strong that it is capable of destroying the cancer causing cells and within a few months the cancer patient starts living a good quality life. gives. This treatment is also effective on those cancer patients who cannot take chemotherapy or radiotherapy due to age.
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